

[respective] remote locations [for permitting any of the users to edit a file to be edited], comprising:

5 a plurality of personal computers, one for each of the users, at least one of said personal computers being designated host computer for given file editing operations and having multi-tasking processing means for coordinating the execution of said file editing operations [of the users through said respective personal computers] comprising edits, which comprise less than an entire file, by at least the user of [said] one of said personal computers, and for coordinating [and] the transfer of data corresponding with and limited to said file editing operations from said [one

10 personal] host computer to the remaining ones of said plurality of personal computers whereby said file editing operations and said corresponding limited data transfer are performed in a predetermined manner by said [one personal] host computer; and

15 interconnecting means for electrically interconnecting said [one personal] host computer with said remaining ones of said plurality of personal computers to permit transmission of electrical signals corresponding with said file editing operations therebetween;

20 wherein, subject to practical system limitations, said file editing operations and said corresponding limited data transfer occur on a substantially real-time basis to permit said plurality of users at said different remote locations to review edits made to a file substantially contemporaneously with the execution of said file editing operations.

25 operations.

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2. (twice amended) [An interactive] A computer file editing system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

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[a plurality of] at least two voice communication means[, in one to one correspondence with said plurality of personal computers,] for transmitting audio signals representative of any user's voice to each other user.

4 3. (twice amended) [An interactive] A computer file editing system according to Claim 1, wherein said interconnecting means is a non-dedicated digital communications system for transferring said data digitally between said [one personal] host computer and said remaining ones of said plurality of personal computers.

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3 4. (twice amended) [An interactive] A computer file editing system according to Claim 2, wherein said interconnecting means is a non-dedicated digital network[, [comprising], which comprises said voice communication means and means for contemporaneously transferring said data between said [one personal] host computer and said remaining ones of said plurality of personal computers and transmitting said audio signals among the users.

5. (twice amended) [An interactive] A computer file editing system according to Claim 1, wherein said interconnecting means comprises a plurality of modems, each having digital-to-analog conversion means and analog-to-digital conversion means and each electrically interconnected between one of said personal computers and an analog communications network, said analog communications network operable for transferring said data between at least two of said [one] personal computers [and said remaining personal computers]; and

wherein each of said personal computers includes data compression/decompression means for compressing said data to be transferred before said data is sent over the analog

communications network and for decompressing said data when
15 received from the analog communications network.

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6. (once amended) [An interactive] A computer file
editing system according to Claim 1, wherein said
interconnecting means is an integrated services digital
network.

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7. (twice amended) [An interactive] A computer file
editing system according to Claim 1, wherein said
interconnecting means comprises a plurality of modems, each
having digital-to-analog conversion means and analog-to-
5 digital conversion means and each electrically
interconnected between one of said personal computers and an
analog communications network, said analog communications
network operable for transferring said data between at least
two of said [one] personal computers [and said remaining
10 personal computers]; and

wherein each of said modems includes data compression/
decompression means for compressing said data to be
transferred before said data is sent over the analog
communications network and for decompressing said data when
15 received from the analog communications network.

8. (twice amended) [An interactive] A computer file
editing system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of modems, each having digital-to-analog
conversion means and analog-to-digital conversion means and
5 each electrically interconnected between one of said
personal computers and an analog communications network,
said analog communications network operable for transferring
said data between at least two of said [one] personal
computers [and said remaining personal computers]; and
10 data compression/decompression means for compressing
said data to be transferred before said data is sent over

the analog communications network and for decompressing the data when received from the analog communications network.

9. (twice amended) A system for contemporaneously editing a file by any of a plurality of users, comprising:

5 a plurality of personal computers, one for each of the users, each of said personal computers including means for inputting file editing operations [into said personal computer] and means for displaying data [from said personal computer], at least one of said personal computers having means for coordinating the execution of file editing operations from [any of said] the inputting means [to said one personal computer] of any of said personal computers and the transfer of data corresponding with and limited to said file editing operations from said at least one of said personal computers to the remaining ones of said plurality of personal computers, one of said at least one of said personal computers being designated host computer; and

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[interconnecting means for electrically interconnecting said one personal computer with said remaining personal computers to permit transmission of electrical signals therebetween;]

20 [wherein said one personal computer performs the editing operations input from any of the input means and said data transfer in a predetermined manner so that the file can be edited from any of said personal computers and the edits can be contemporaneously displayed on said display means.]

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interconnecting means comprising a non-dedicated digital communications system for transferring said data digitally between said host computer and said remaining ones of said plurality of personal computers;

30 wherein, subject to practical system limitations, said
file editing operations and said corresponding limited data
transfer occur on a substantially real-time basis to permit
said plurality of users at respective remote locations to
review edits made to a file substantially contemporaneously
35 with corresponding file editing operations.

10. (twice amended) A system for contemporaneously
editing a file according to Claim 9, wherein the
coordinating means is operatively interconnected with the
inputting means and displaying means of each of said
remaining ones of said plurality of personal computers
through said interconnecting means and comprises means for
sequentially polling the input from each of the inputting
means, means for executing any editing operation input by
one of said users on [the] a file [input by a user], and
10 means for sending said data from said [one personal] host
computer to all of the displaying means as the [input]
editing operation is [carried out] input by said one of said
users.

13. (twice amended) A system for contemporaneously
editing a file according to Claim ¹²~~11~~, wherein said
interconnecting means is a non-dedicated digital network[,]
[comprising] which comprises said voice communication means
5 and means for contemporaneously transferring said data
between said [one personal] host computer and said remaining
ones of said plurality of personal computers and
transmitting said audio signals among the users.

14. (amended) A system for contemporaneously editing
a file according to Claim ¹¹~~10~~, wherein:

said interconnecting means comprises:

a plurality of converting means, each electrically
5 interconnected with one of said personal computers, for

converting digital signals from each of said personal computers to analog signals and converting analog signals to digital signals, and

an analog communications network for electrically
10 interconnecting the plurality of converting means and transferring said analog signals to [/] and from the converting means, [and] wherein

each of said personal computers further includes data compression/decompression means for compressing data to be
15 transferred before said data is sent over the analog communications network and for decompressing said data when received from the analog communications network.

15. (amended) A system for contemporaneously editing a file according to Claim ¹¹10, wherein:

a first plurality of said personal computers are electrically interconnected in a first local area network
5 and at least a second plurality of said personal computers are interconnected in at least a second local area network; and

said interconnecting means includes means for interconnecting said first local area network with said at
10 least second local area network for allowing transfer of said data to [/] and from [said] the personal computers [on] in said first and said at least second local area networks.

16 17. (twice amended) A system for contemporaneously editing a file according to Claim ¹¹10, wherein the coordinating means includes means for excluding [from the sequential polling] input from at least one selected
5 inputting means from the sequential polling.

18. (twice amended) A method for contemporaneously editing a file from any of a plurality of personal computers situated at different remote locations, wherein at least one

of said personal computers [which] has multi-tasking
5 capabilities and one of said at least one of said personal
computers is designated as host computer, comprising the
steps of:

electrically interconnecting the [at least one personal
computer having multi-tasking capabilities] host computer
10 with the remaining ones of said plurality of personal
computers over a communications network;

inputting editing instructions which constitute edits
to less than the entire file into [a] one of said personal
computers;

15 receiving, at the [one personal] host computer, the
[input] editing instructions which have been input;

editing the file in accordance with the instructions;
and

transferring data corresponding with the file editing
20 instructions from the [one] host computer to the remaining
ones of said plurality of personal computers over the
communications network;

wherein subject to practical system limitations, said
editing step and said transferring step occur on a
25 substantially real-time basis so as to permit said data to
be reviewed at each personal computer in said different
remote locations substantially contemporaneously with
corresponding file editing operations.

19. (twice amended) A method for contemporaneously
editing a file according to Claim 18 further comprising the
step of establishing voice communications over a telephone
network among users of each of the personal computers before
5 inputting editing instructions.

20. (twice amended) A method for contemporaneously
editing a file according to Claim 18, wherein the [the

communications network is] step of electrically interconnecting comprises electrically interconnecting the
5 host computer with the remaining ones of said plurality of personal computers over a non-dedicated digital network.

21. (twice amended) A method for contemporaneously editing a file according to claim 18, wherein the step of electrically interconnecting comprises electrically interconnecting the host computer with the remaining ones of
5 said plurality of personal computers over a communications network [includes] including:

a plurality of converting means, each electrically interconnected with one of the personal computers for converting digital signals from said personal computers to
10 analog signals and converting analog signals to digital signals; and

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an analog communications network for interconnecting the plurality of converting means and transferring the analog signals to [/] and from the converting means.

22. (twice amended) A method for contemporaneously editing a file according to Claim 19, wherein the [communications network and the telephone network comprise the same network] step of establishing voice communications
5 comprises establishing voice communications over the same network as said communications network wherein said communications network is capable of contemporaneous transmission of data and voice signals.

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23. (twice amended) An interactive editing system for a plurality of users at [respective] different remote locations for permitting any of the users to [input, by voice communications means,] orally provide file editing
5 instructions comprising edits to less than an entire file, and pertaining to a file to be edited, and for permitting

substantially contemporaneous viewing of the editing by all of the users, comprising:

voice communication means, in one-to-one correspondence
10 with the users, for transmitting audio signals representative of any user's voice and said orally provided file editing instructions to each of the [remaining] others of said plurality of users;

a personal computer, having multi-tasking processing
15 means and a display, for use by one of the users to input and execute the editing instructions [input] orally provided by the remaining ones of said plurality of users;

a plurality of remote terminals, one for use by each of the remaining ones of said plurality of users and each
20 having a display; and

interconnecting means for electrically interconnecting said personal computer with each of said remote terminals and for transferring data corresponding with the file editing instructions, comprising edits to less than an
25 entire file, between said personal computer and said remote terminals [for contemporaneous viewing by the users on each display];

wherein, subject to practical system limitations, said file editing instruction execution and said corresponding
30 data transfer occur on a substantially real-time basis to permit said plurality of users at said different remote locations to view edits made to a file substantially contemporaneously with the execution of said file editing instructions.

19 26. (twice amended) An interactive editing system
17 according to Claim 23, wherein:

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said interconnecting means comprises a plurality of modems, [each] one of said modems having digital-to-analog

5 conversion means and analog-to-digital conversion means,
said one of said modems electrically interconnected between
said personal computer and an analog communications network
and each of the remaining one of said plurality of modems
containing analog-to-digital conversion means and
10 electrically interconnected between a corresponding one of
said remote terminals and said analog communications
network, said analog communications network operable for
transferring said data between said personal computer and
said remote terminals, and
15 [each] said one of said modems includes data
compression/decompression means for compressing said data to
be transferred between said personal computer and said
remote terminals before said data is sent over the analog
communications network and for [decompressed] decompressing
20 said data when received from the analog communications
network and each of said remaining ones of said plurality of
modems includes data decompression means for decompressing
said data when received from the analog communications
network.

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated June 24, 1992 regarding the
parent application hereto, the Examiner objected to the
specification and rejected certain claims under 35 U.S.C. §112,
first paragraph; objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R.
§1.83(a); rejected Claims 1-23, 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. §112,
second paragraph; and rejected Claims 1-23, 25-26 under 35
U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Tompkins et al. In this
preliminary amendment, Applicant amends Claims 1-10, 13-15, 17-
19, 21-23 and 26.